

II. STUDY INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Puget Sound Park-and-Ride Study is to develop a comprehensive update to the regional park-and-ride system plan for King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties. The project is sponsored by WSDOT. The primary goal of the project is to develop corridor-level park-and-ride demand estimates for existing and future conditions, and to develop short-, mid-, and long-range recommendations for potential investment opportunities. The identified investment opportunities may be added to the WTP and will be provided to the PSRC for consideration for inclusion in the MTP. Inclusion in the MTP allows WSDOT to seek partnering opportunities to jointly develop park-and-ride facilities throughout the region, and inclusion in the WTP allows WSDOT to program potential site selection as a part of State roadway projects.

WSDOT views park-and-ride facilities as necessary auxiliary facilities to the freeway and regional high occupancy vehicle (HOV) system. Park-and-ride facilities can be used to accommodate future growth in travel demand by increasing accessibility to transit services in urban, suburban, and rural locations. Providing adequate park-and-ride capacity where it is needed will help to maximize the use and benefit of both the transit and HOV systems. Placement of new and expanded park-and-ride facilities in the regional MTP and the WTP will initiate their formal programming as transportation system components.

This is not the first instance of WSDOT interest in park-and-ride facilities within the central Puget Sound Region. In the early to mid 1970s, WSDOT took a proactive role in developing 15 joint park-and-ride facilities within the Central Puget Sound Region that are still in active service today. WSDOT's role in these projects ranged from securing state and federal funding, to securing the right-of-way for construction on behalf of the respective transit agency, to the construction of facilities themselves as lead agency. A comprehensive region-wide park-and-ride system update has not been undertaken since the Park-Ride Program Evaluation conducted in 1976.

As the only transportation provider with jurisdiction over all four counties, the WSDOT's OUM is taking the lead as sponsor of this system plan update. OUM, together with WSDOT's Northwest and Olympic Regions, is working in coordination with local and regional transit agencies including:

- Community Transit
- Everett Transit
- King County Metro



Northgate Transit Center

- Kitsap Transit
- Pierce Transit
- Sound Transit
- Washington State Ferries

These agencies, along with PSRC, are jointly serving as the steering and advisory committee for this project. It is WSDOT's desire that this joint coordination will continue through the development and implementation of the Study's recommendations.

Please note that the programming and cost estimate aspects of this study address capital projects only. Analysis and cost estimates for operations, maintenance, public education, and enforcement were beyond the scope of this study.

STUDY AREA

The identified focus area for this study includes the four counties of King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish. The report study area and its major transportation facilities is presented in Figure 2.1.

WSDOT and the transit agencies in each county were requested to identify primary roadway networks within their jurisdictions for which park-and-ride facility investments are appropriate now or in the future. This study does not include all state routes in the four-county area, but focuses instead on primary commuting and transit corridors. The corridors identified are:

King County

- I-5/SR 99
- I-90
- SR 167/Commuter Rail Corridor
- I-405
- SR 520
- SR 522

Kitsap County

- SR 3
- SR 16
- SR 104
- SR 160
- SR 166
- SR 303
- SR 304
- SR 305

Pierce County

- I-5
- SR 7
- SR 16
- SR 161
- SR 162
- SR 167
(existing & proposed extension)
- SR 302
- SR 410
- SR 509
- SR 512

Snohomish County

- US 2
- I-5/SR 99
- SR 9
- SR 522
- SR 525/526
- SR 527

INSERT FIGURE 2.1 REPORT STUDY AREA

